



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Water Quality Coordinating Committee Water Protection Program

Minutes

November 16, 2004

WATER QUALITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Governor Office Building
200 Madison Street, Room 470
Jefferson City, Missouri

November 16, 2004
10:00 a.m.

MEETING AGENDA

Missouri's Resource Assessment Program
Matt Combes, Stream Ecologist, Missouri Department of Conservation

Watershed Planning Grants
Tod Hudson, DNR, Water Protection Program

Nonpoint Source Management Plan Revisions
Greg Anderson, DNR, Water Protection Program

Other

Agency Activities

Meetings & Conferences

MISSOURI WATER QUALITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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MINUTES

Attendees:

Becky Shannon	DNR/WPP/Water Pollution Control Br.	Priscilla Stotts	DNR/WPP/Water Pollution Control Br.
Darlene Schaben	DNR/WPP/Water Pollution Control Br.	Dan Downing	Univ of MO Extension
Tod Hudson	DNR/WPP/Water Pollution Control Br.	Bob Broz	Univ of MO Extension – Water Quality
Stacia Bax	DNR/WPP/Water Pollution Control Br.	Bob Ball	USDA – NRCS
Randy Sarver	DNR/ALPD/Env. Services Program	Cindy DiStefano	MO Dept. of Conservation
Anne Peery	DNR/WPP/Water Pollution Control Br.	Donna Menown	DNR/WPP/Water Pollution Control Br.
Charles Hays	DNR/GSRAD/Water Resources Pgm.	Ann Crawford	DNR/WPP/Water Pollution Control Br.
Michael Bollinger	Ameren	Tom Wallace	MEC Water Resources
Bob Hentges	MO Public Utility Alliance	Matt Combes	MO Dept. of Conservation
Robert Brundage	Newman, Comley & Ruth	Mike Duvall	St. Charles County Government
Time Healey	Lange-Stegmann Company	Angel Kruzen	Water Sentinel
Richard Gaskin	KCMO Water Services	Charlie Ducharme	DNR/GSRAD/Water Resources Pgm.
Buffy Santel	Metro St. Louis Sewer District	Mary West	City of Moberly
Ken Struemp	DNR/Soil & Water Conservation Pgm.		

Becky reminded the group that the December Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting has been canceled.

Introductions were made.

Missouri's Resource Assessment Program, Matt Combes, Stream Ecologist, Missouri Department of Conservation PowerPoint Presentation

Matt coordinates the Missouri Resource Assessment Monitoring (RAM) Program. Partnerships have been developed with MDC, DNR, EPA & Research within UMC. RAM has two components: statewide monitoring and research. The statewide monitoring portion of RAM stands for Resource, Assessment and Monitoring. The resource is warm water wadeable streams. They look at fish, macroinvertebrates, muscle communities, components of physical habitat and water quality at the sites. Assessment means assigning a value to a resource. Monitoring means checking the value repeatedly through time. To determine the trajectory of where the site is going and is the value getting better or worse.

There are three monitoring crews that can work on three Ecological District Units (EDUs) per year. This allows coverage of the entire state every 5-6 years. This monitoring is done to help Missouri satisfy requirements of the Clean Water Act, which requires knowing something about all stream segments in the state. MDC is involved to help satisfy some of their department's goals. Within MDC, RAM stands for Research, Assessment and Monitoring. Research protocols are used so they can look at differences among treatments. Assessments are done to assess the effects of land use practices on stream habitats and communities. Also, they can assess the effectiveness of their programs to see how effective those programs are at achieving their goals of protecting stream health. Monitoring is used to monitor the effects of changes in land use practices through time or any other sort of treatment where a research project can be done and replicated over time.

Matt said he is working on a project to assess the effect of dam building on East Locust Creek. This is done in partnership with MDC's Resource Science Division. There is a partnership with the Fisheries Division to do projects using MDC's protocol that allows them to compare data across all state projects. Data is archived and used later if questions arise. Other partnerships have been formed with MDNR, James River Basin Partnership, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, U.S. Forest Service, USGS and consulting firms. Research RAM is done to provide science-based information for decision-making by parties within and outside of MDC, strategic planning and adaptive resource management.

A question was asked about the types of data collected. Matt said they sample fish and macroinvertebrate communities to determine an index of biotic integrity to see how each site supports life. They look for heavy metals, nutrients in water, sources of pollutants, metals and other sources of pollutants in soil and nutrients in fish tissues. They also do a physical habitat analysis looking at the characteristics of the stream channel. Matt said they measure sediment using EPA's point count method.

They have completed the first 3 EDUs in the rotation. They use a random approach to choose their sites, instead of specific points. If sites are chosen randomly, this can statistically draw inferences about all the stream reaches in that EDU. This reporting is applicable to DNR's 305(b) report.

Thus far, results have shown the Ozarks streams are in pretty good shape and northern prairie region is not. They hope to use Stream Team data to compare what they found.

Randy Sarver, ESP, said they are in the process of getting together with Matt to see where they can do joint projects.

For next summer, Matt said they plan to do the Grand River Basin and work in the EDU that runs from Columbia to Kansas. EPA is interested in the tributaries that run into the Missouri River.

Matt indicated that analysis should be completed for the 2002 efforts by next June and he could then present those to the group.

Watershed Planning Grants, Tod Hudson, DNR, Water Protection Program
Handout: EPA's Key Elements Critical to a Watershed Management Plan

Tod said that the department got involved with watershed management planning when the FY99 319 grant was awarded. Additional money was available but with more requirements to fulfill. First, availability was contingent upon EPA approval of the state's Nonpoint Source Management Plan. Second, a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS) was required for FY99, FY2000 and FY2001. In FY2003, EPA developed the Nine Key Elements that have to be completed by the applicant before funding can be received. EPA has made \$300,000 available for Watershed Planning Grants. A draft Request for Proposals (RFP) is in the process. Some requirements and criteria in the RFP include: institutions of higher education, units of government and non-profit organizations [501(c)(3)] are eligible to apply; grant maximum amount is \$15,000; must have a non-federal match of 40%; plans are to be completed within two years; and, the project must have a high likelihood of success. The project must encompass a complete watershed or sub-watershed of a manageable size. Plans should be written at the local level. Letters of support should be included with the application. With using the nine key elements, EPA is asking for load reduction reporting.

Tod thought the RFP should be out within the next month. With a Watershed Management Plan in place, applicants will then be eligible to apply for Incremental 319 funding to implement those plans. Tod said a targeted list of 303(d) waters that are impaired because of nonpoint source pollutants has been developed. The Watershed Management Plans prepared with these funds will be approved by the department.

The RFP will be sent to this group when it becomes available, which should be in December or early January.

Nonpoint Source Management Plan Revisions, Greg Anderson, DNR, Water Protection Program

(Due to a conflict, Greg was unable to attend.) Becky said the Missouri Nonpoint Source Management Plan discusses the state's goals, objectives and approach in dealing with nonpoint sources of the state. It was first written in 1989 with the first revision in 1999. The document is available on the department's web site. With the 1999 revision, a schedule for routine revisions was established. So, every five years the plan is to be totally reviewed to see if the goals are being met and if the direction headed is right for the state. This is the year for that complete review. Becky said that beginning in January, the group may see invitations for meetings and be asked for assistance with input for the Plan. This is a state plan and has been developed by a large audience of people and a number of stakeholders. While working on the revisions, agencies will be asked to tie in their strategic planning process to see how their agency is committed to protecting Missouri's water from nonpoint source contaminants. Agencies will be asked to review and update those. In order to keep the broad basis of support, not-for-profit groups, local groups and watershed groups will also be asked for input. Becky asked the group to watch for invitations.

Becky mentioned that the State Water Plan would be a topic on the agenda for the January meeting.

A request was made for the link to the Plan be sent to the group. Web site for NPSMP:
<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/wpscd/wpcp/wpcnpsmp.htm>

Becky felt this document is important because it establishes our approach in Missouri for addressing nonpoint source. It is a voluntary, locally led watershed based approach. This is a key point that came from the stakeholders involved in the 1999 revisions to the plan.

Agency Activities

Donna Menown mentioned that the Introduction to Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshops will begin soon and the schedule will be posted on the web at mostreamteam.org. The Level 2 schedule will also be announced soon.

Bob Ball announced that through the Conservation Security Program, which Clif Baumer talked about at the last meeting, six watersheds in Missouri have been approved. They will begin meeting with those watersheds and develop activities. This will be a huge undertaking. A formal press release is out.

Bob said that he was on the planning team to revise the Introduction to Water Quality Course. It will be made available to everyone when completed. It will be more science-based and less NRCS Conservation Planning based.

This year NRCS announced a new Conservation Partnership Initiative (CPI). Of the two proposals received from Missouri, the one from MDC will be funded. This is an activity in Andrew and Cass counties looking at bobwhite quail habitat. The next CPI announcement will probably be in 2005. The projects are watershed or area based, involve extensive planning and need to be completed in three years; \$200,000 is available nationwide.

The Water Quality Short Course is being planned for April 12-14. The announcement should be out soon.

Bob Broz said that CCA and Water and Wastewater credits will again be available for attendees at the Water Quality Short Course.

Dan Downing said there are two groups (St. Francois County and Shoal Creek) that are actively working on watershed management plans with two more thinking about doing them.

Priscilla Stotts said that Wanda Eubank, with the North Fork of the Salt Watershed Project, is planning a Youth Watershed Conference. It's important to get the youth involved.

Mike Duvall said the County Government and its municipalities and its sponsored organizations have been very active. They had a very successful annual stream clean up. County Government submitted a Phase II regulatory application. He said they have six different Phase II permits in process. At the county level they are requiring any developments, particularly in the Peruque watershed, involving wastewater treatment plants to be twice as stringent as DNR's limits. They are also revising their rural ordinances.

Mary West asked about minutes of stakeholder meetings being made available on Internet. Becky said the WQCC minutes are available on the Internet but didn't know if all stakeholder meetings were.

Tim Healy said he works with Lange-Stegmann Company, which is a fertilizer company in St. Louis. They are members of a trade organization called The Fertilizer Institute (TFI). An Advanced Fertilizer Technology Committee was formed this year. Advanced fertilizer technologies are technologies that chemical companies, TFI and basic fertilizer manufacturers have developed which keep applied nutrients on the field. This in turn improves soil quality, air quality and water quality. Tim felt that by using these technologies plants would utilize the nutrients better which would increase yields and profits at the end of the year. Tim also thought that a nutrient management plan used by a farmer is an integral part of a watershed management plan.

TFI's web site is www.tfi.org. And for more information, scroll down to Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizer Brochure. Open the brochure and the web sites for the companies marketing these fertilizers are listed on page 11 of the brochure.

Anne Peery talked about the department meeting the TMDL numbers agreed to for the year in the Memorandum of Understanding. It looks like the required number will be met.

Randy Sarver asked about group interest in technical presentations. He encouraged the group to submit ideas for presentations. He felt that follow-up presentations, like on 319 projects, would be good as well. Becky appreciated this mention and said to send any ideas to Darlene to try to get them scheduled for meetings.

Stacia Bax reminded the group that the Regulatory Impact Report for the Chapter 7, Water Quality Standards Effluent Regulations is on Public Notice for comments until December 16, 2004. Comments will then be responded to and the proposed rulemaking sent to Secretary of State for publishing. Stacia said that a bacterial data sheet has been added to the UAA document since the last Clean Water Commission meeting and sent for final approvals. This should be available soon.

Tod Hudson asked Bob Broz if Peter Scharf would be available to do a presentation on the color sensor nitrogen project.

The next scheduled meeting will be January 18, 2005, in Jefferson City.

Meetings & Conferences

January	5	Clean Water Commission, Columbia
	18	Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting, Jefferson City
April	12-14	Water Quality Short Course, Columbia